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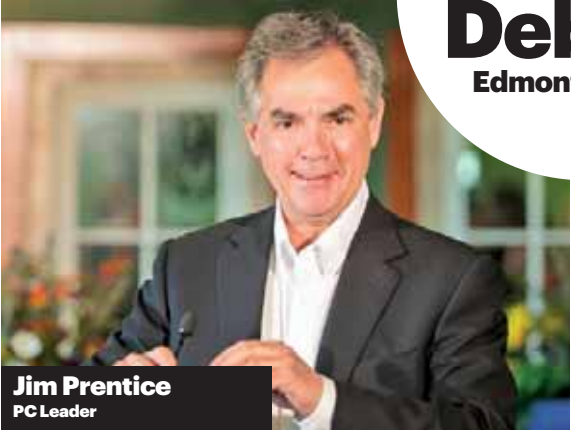


Rachel Notley
NDP Leader



David Swann
Liberal Leader

**TONIGHT'S
THE NIGHT
Election
Debate**
Edmonton News



Jim Prentice
PC Leader



Brian Jean
Wildrose Leader

Police seize drug cache

CRIME
Long-banned chemical also found, used as cutting agent

"You build on existing intelligence that you have gained to move up the ladder in organized crime and that's exactly what happened in this investigation," he said.

Police seized seven kilograms of cocaine, 567 grams of ecstasy, 10 kilograms of marijuana, three prohibited weapons, four vehicles and more than \$6,000 in cash.

They also seized a cutting agent for the cocaine, and Strang said it shows how indifferent organized crime is to drug users, because the chemical was banned in the 1970s.

"Their goal is to maximize profits and they maximized profits this way by using a cutting agent that is carcinogenic."

The four people who were arrested are Brendan Bennett, 31, Richard Comely, 33, Travis Lall, 35 and Allison Wincherauk, 27.

Police seized an estimated \$850,000 in drugs along with cash and weapons in a series of raids in southwest Edmonton last week.

Officers with the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team executed search warrants on four homes, seizing the drugs and arresting four people.

Insp. Darcy Strang said the bust was the result of an arrest in Cold Lake, which officers followed up the chain of organized crime.



Ryan Tumilty
Metro|Edmonton

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Millions choose Metro

MEDIA

Latest newspaper survey results revealed



Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Metro is becoming the go-to news source for young Canadians.

Almost 3 million people read Metro once a week, and more than 1.2 million are daily readers, data released Wednesday by NADbank shows.

Some 60 per cent — or 740,000 — of the daily 1.2 million readers are between the ages of 18 and 49, with the most living in major hubs stretching from Vancouver to Halifax.

It's proof that Metro "owns the younger urban market in Canada," said vice-president and editor-in-chief Cathrin Bradbury.

"People are choosing Metro because it's a reflection of their lives, and the cities they call home," Bradbury said. "It is the paper that best captures the essence of what they're passionate about and explains the issues they face."

John Cruickshank, publisher of the Toronto Star and president of Star Metro Media Group, said he's thrilled with Metro's readership growth in a number of cities,



One of Metro's strengths is connecting with commuters. In Calgary, for example, where readership is 139,300 daily, its presence on transit is hard to miss. JENNIFER FRIESE/FOR METRO

particularly those in Western Canada.

"While the capacity of others to cover the market shrinks, Metro — because it's focused on news delivery — will continue to rise in these crucial markets," he said.

The paper's appeal to younger people helps complement other Star Metro Media products, he said.

"What we have with the Star and Metro is the ability to speak across a very great breadth of the audience."

Metro is well positioned for future growth as more

What we have with the Star and Metro is the ability to speak across a very great breadth of the audience.

John Cruickshank, president of Star Media Group

people move to urban centres, Bradbury said.

According to Statistics Canada, 81 per cent of people

now live in urban areas. The divide is even more pronounced among the young, with only 17 per cent of 15- to 29-year-olds living in rural Canada.

Metro has made recent investments to expand editorial coverage of local news in each of its seven markets, Bradbury said. Plus, Metro updated its look in March with a modern redesign that takes delivering essential daily news to the next level.

"We want people to tuck the paper under their arms with pride," Bradbury said.

TRANSIT

Low-income pass a 'game changer'

The low-income transit pass being mullied by city council, which Metro reported on last week, is now a go.

Erick Ambtman, executive director at the Edmonton Menonite Centre for Newcomers, says the low-income pass will be a "game changer."

"A lot of people moving to Canada at the beginning have a very low income. It's going to have a huge impact for the city," he said.

At city council, the city's administration brought forward the idea Wednesday of a \$35, \$45 or \$57 pass to be available for recent immigrants, children under government care, low-income families and Assured Income for the Severely

Handicapped recipients.

A council committee voted to have an initial 60 per cent reduction for the pass.

Coun. Andrew Knack questioned the need to call the idea a pilot, and it will not be.

At the 60 per cent discount, administration says they're expecting an additional 1.3 million riders annually on transit, thanks to the pass.

City administration say the reduced-cost pass will only come into effect in September 2016 because of the technology, training and paperwork needed to prep for the program.

"We want to do it right the first time," said Charlie Stolte, transit manager with Edmonton Transit. STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

WEATHER

Dry conditions fuel destructive fires

Bone-dry conditions and high winds have fuelled several grass fires in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Two houses were destroyed Wednesday in a blaze near Wetaskiwin, southeast of Edmonton. Wetaskiwin Fire Chief Leigh Sawicki said crews tried to contain the fire to one house, but high winds quickly carried the blaze to a second home. The grass fire also jumped a road and headed north, Sawicki said Wednesday evening.

"Our problem that we had

was the wind and the lack of water due to the number of fires that have been going on in the surrounding areas," he said. "All the local departments have been out dealing with grass fires."

No injuries were reported. Mounties had to re-route traffic on major highways in both provinces on Wednesday after heavy smoke reduced visibility.

A fire north of Edmonton near Fort Saskatchewan closed township roads, but the county says there were no threats to residents. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SAFETY ON TRANSIT — PART II

Taking mental-health calls across Edmonton

EMERGENCIES

Partnerships between social agencies, peace officers is key



Stephanie Dubois
Metro | Edmonton

Two or three times each week, health workers travel to LRT stations and transit centres across Edmonton and help people there who may be intoxicated, have mental health problems or need housing.

"In many cases, we'd take the participant somewhere quickly so they can deal with immediate crisis," said Matt Ashdown, manager of the 24/7 Mobile Assistance Program, and Homeless to Homes program, both run through the Bissell Centre. "If they're intoxicated, we'd take them into a shelter to sober up. Once immediate crisis is diverted, we offer participants a follow-up."

As Edmonton's transit system expands, helping people

ONLINE

This is the second in a two-day series in which Metro looks at safety on Edmonton's transit system by speaking with riders, city officials and social agencies.

Missed Part I? Read about verbal harassment and safety standards at metronews.ca.

with mental health issues is becoming a more frequent need. And the only way to meet it, say transit officials, is partnerships with social agencies.

Although the city doesn't keep numbers on mental health for a variety of reasons, security officials say strengthening relationships with social agencies who can better help distressed individuals on the transit system is imperative, so transit peace officers can respond to other emergency calls.

"Over the last few years, we've noticed we're spending a lot more time with individuals who may have mental health issues," said Ron Gabruck, director of security with Edmonton Transit, underlining the need for partnerships. "That is a consumer of our time."

The Hope Mission 24/7 rescue van is one group the city calls upon frequently to fill in gaps.

"We know that by having a good working relationship with Edmonton transit peace officers, we're able to help people in need but also alleviating that



Henrique Castro and Margaret Olson, outreach workers with Hope Mission's 24/7 rescue van, help people across the city, including those who may need help on transit. STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

pressure on emergency personnel," said Rachel Chan, public relations and communications officer with Hope Mission.

Edmonton transit officials said they hope the relationships with social groups continue to grow.

"I think the key is to have more teams to call. We're looking to do things as efficiently as possible," said Gabruck.

FUTURE TRANSIT

Officials look at security options

Nine new security officers and six new transit peace officers will soon join the team that helps police Edmonton's transit system. But many are looking beyond today to the future of security on the network.

On one front, the view is toward technology. Ron Gabruck, director of safety and security with Edmonton Transit, says he would like to see an app that allows people to discreetly report a non-emergency or emergency incident.

"We have all these visible security features on our system but they require someone pushing a button and in some ways, bringing attention to themselves," he said. "We need a way to discreetly report that and that's where I

would like us to go next."

Translink, the Metro Vancouver mass transit authority, already offers an app. It allows riders to get a better picture when it comes to their transit experience, and includes alerts and rider information sent straight to their smartphones.

"We would want to make it convenient. We want to make it a one-stop shop where you can report a problem, get news, alerts and schedules," said Gabruck.

While this is a long-term strategy for Edmonton, he said, there are no immediate plans for an app.

Emergency phones are placed at transit centres and LRT stations. There are also cameras located throughout the city. Ed-

monton is also attempting to get SmartBus technology into all of its buses. The technology would not only allow people to track their bus in real-time but for the city's control centre to monitor any emergency events unfolding on a city bus.

"We have cameras throughout the network and those cameras are used to provide timely, real-time information through our control centre ... and they're invaluable," said Gabruck.

Another possibility is people support. Adding some form of social worker on Edmonton Transit to deal with mental health needs is another possibility, said Gabruck. Still, that's off in the future.

STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

+ INCIDENTS

According to Edmonton Transit's 2014 Customer Safety and Security Annual Summary, which Metro obtained through a freedom of information request, security incidents jumped by 12 per cent since 2013.

In pure numbers, Edmonton Transit logged 4,043 separate incidents on LRT and bus vehicles and stations last year.

These do not include 718 incidents that the report categorizes as happening on the LRT Main Line.

For comparison, in 2013 ETS saw 3,350 incidents, and 629 others on the LRT Main Line. But what's an incident? They're defined by transit as anything that requires security to respond. And according to the report, here's where they happen most frequently:



Churchill LRT station

Located in the hub of downtown, Churchill saw the bulk of calls compared to other LRT and transit stops. Nearly 550 of them were reported at Churchill Station.

Coliseum

Coliseum's LRT station and transit centre were grouped together for the report, with the area seeing the second highest number of calls, with 485 incidents reported.



Route 8

The route that travels to and from Abbottsfield to Mill Woods had a 12 per cent increase in disturbances from 2013, with the route identified as having the highest number of calls, according to the report obtained by Metro.

Route 9

This bus route, which travels from Eaux Claires to Southgate, had 306 incidents in 2014, a jump from the 263 calls reported in 2013.



Pepito Tabelon, transit safety inspector, is one of many who work at the city's control centre, where peace officers monitor emergency calls across the transit system. STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO



Talon Nelson stands with four of the six paramedics who responded to his family's home five years ago to save his life, just minutes after he was born. LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

Family finally able to say 'thank you'

EMS

Child meets paramedics who saved him



Leah Holoday
Metro | Edmonton

They were the worst words Shelly Nelson has ever heard — “flatline baby.”

Recounting watching her 17-year-old daughter, Megan, prematurely deliver her grandson Talon in the family's living room in May, 2010, Nelson said she has always wanted to say thanks for

what happened next.

Six paramedics arrived on scene, got the infant's heart beating and saved his life.

Nelson finally said thank you Wednesday as the family, including her now five-year-old grandson Talon, was reunited with the six paramedics who responded to the call.

When he was born, Talon weighed just one pound and eight ounces and was barely breathing.

The paramedics, who showed up just eight minutes after the initial call went out, were able to resuscitate the 16-week premature baby before transporting him to the Stollery Children's Hospital.

“Over the past four and a

half years, I've been trying to find the paramedics,” Nelson said. “I am thrilled that I get to thank the men... for everything they did, for Talon and for my family. He's been such a joy to have around.

“Without them, I wouldn't have him.”

On Wednesday, Edmonton paramedic Brendan Mulholland said he remembers the call. It was the first time he responded to an infant born that premature.

“With (a baby) that small, that was my first experience,” he said.

With his partner Seth Dodman, Mulholland was the first paramedics to arrive at the Nelson's home.

“Once we got on scene, we saw the baby on mom's tummy and started to move quite quickly,” Mulholland. “The baby wasn't breathing and he had a really small pulse. We started some CPR and breathing for the baby.”

Five years later, Mulholland said getting to see Talon doing well, brings some finality to the job.

“It makes all the work worth it,” he said.

Talon's mom Megan describes her son as a happy-go-lucky kid and spitball of fire.

Now 22, Megan said it's been exciting to meet the men who her saved her son.

“We hoped for the chance for it to happen,” she said.

OILERS

Connor McDavid will be 'great,' says Coffey

Former Oilers great Paul Coffey knows all about starting an NHL career in Edmonton. He thinks Connor McDavid will do just fine if the Oilers do the expected and select the junior phenom with the first overall pick in this year's draft.

“I left Connor a note the other day congratulating him on going to Edmonton, an incredible city with great fans and the City of Champions,” Coffey said Wednesday.

“I was there seven years and am a former Oiler. I'm still proud to call myself an Oiler. I think he'll do great there.”

Edmonton won the draft lottery last weekend despite having just an 11.5 per cent chance of doing so. Oilers general manager Craig MacTavish said there is “zero” chance that he'll trade the pick.

McDavid, who had 120 points in 47 games this season for the Erie Otters, is considered a rare talent along the likes of a Sidney Crosby or Wayne Gretzky.

It was the fourth lottery win in six years for the Oilers, who

“

I'm still proud to call myself an Oiler. I think he'll do great there.

Paul Coffey

selected Taylor Hall in 2010, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins in 2011 and Nail Yakupov in 2012.

Coffey broke in with the Oilers in 1980-81 and spent seven seasons in Edmonton, winning the Stanley Cup there on three occasions.

“They talk about Toronto being a tough place to play and these other cities, I mean Edmonton is just as tough — but fair,” he said. “I think that the whole town, the fans were instrumental in all of our careers because they kept us accountable. (If you) had a bad game, you knew about it. But they were also a great enough fanbase that they came out to support. They love the Oilers, they've got a new rink coming there.” THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ FROM METRO EDMONTON

A note to our readers

On April 22, a political advertisement was published by Metro Edmonton in error. The statements made in this advertisement are highly offensive, target the gay community, and absolutely do not reflect the values, editorial viewpoints or policies of Metro. A newspaper is about relationships and thus about trust with readers.

Our error in publishing this ad is that it damages relationships with the communities we continually support on a daily basis through our editorial and

advertising creations.

The error requires Metro Edmonton to state in the strongest language possible that we do not support the content of this advertisement in any way. We do not. We are a newspaper of diversity and inclusiveness.

We regret the error and are redoubling our efforts to ensure it does not happen again.

Sincerely,
Steve Shroud
VP and Group Publisher,
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ETS Service Changes: Start Sunday, April 26.

Downtown Bus Stop and Route Changes Bus Routes 1, 2, 5, 52, 88, 109, 135 and 309

Bus stop locations and routes along 102 Ave. between 95 St. and 103 St. and along 102 Ave between 95 St. and 97 St. are changing due to upcoming lane and road closures for various downtown construction projects. The changes include stops near:

- City Centre Mall
- YMCA;
- Commerce Place
- Churchill Square
- Stanley A. Milner Library
- Winspear Centre

Full details are in individual route brochures and online at takeETS.com/downtown

.....

New Service

Route 103: Extension in Cameron Heights.

Route 333: New peak period route from Rosenthal to Lewis Farms Transit Centre.

.....

Route Renumbering

Route 75 is now 361; Route 76 is now 362; Route 77 is now 363; and Route 135 is now part of Route 5.

.....

Spring and Post-Secondary Service Changes

Service adjustments on the following routes: 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 15, 30, 43, 50, 51, 53, 73, 106, 128 and 130.

Routes 54, 97, 98, 399 and post-secondary special routes are cancelled until September. *The Winter Term U-Pass is not valid after April 30, 2015.*

Full details are in individual route brochures and online at takeETS.com

Bent girders delaying 102 Ave. bridge project



Three girders buckled during construction earlier this year, forcing the closure of Groat Road for several weeks. METRO FILE

INFRASTRUCTURE

More work to be done this weekend



Ryan
Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

At least one of the formerly bent girders on the 102nd Avenue bridge will need to be repaired and possibly replaced, and that will delay

the project originally slated to open this year into 2016.

Three of the bridge's seven girders are now "suspect."

The city will close Groat Road again this weekend to do more work and prepare bracing for removing at least one of them.

Barry Belcourt, the city's branch manager of road design and construction, said they are hopeful the problematic girder — girder five — can be fixed.

"We know girder five, obviously, has to be replaced or

repaired. We are hoping it's repaired; that's a lot shorter time frame," he said.

Belcourt told councillors at their transportation committee meeting Wednesday that replacing the girder would take months, while repairing could be weeks.

But in either case, opening the bridge this year is extremely unlikely.

Coun. Scott McKeen, who oversees the ward where the stricken bridge is located, said he hopes the city can find a way to assist business-

+ CLOSURE

Groat Road will be closed on Saturday morning at 6 a.m. and will reopen Monday morning at 6 a.m.

es affected by the extended shutdown.

"We're always looking for other ideas for ways we can help them," he said.

So far, McKeen said the city is looking at events in the area and better signage.

EDUCATION

Elementary school club knits inclusion

As an administrative assistant at Edmonton's Waverley Elementary School, Lynda Parrott has spent the last 15 years creating a safe space for children who don't necessarily fit in.

"Not every child is good at kicking a soccer ball," said Parrott.

So she's done something about that.

After creating a photography and knitting club, Parrott now spends her spare time with students in the school's main office, encouraging them to connect.

"It gives those kids that tend to wander by themselves and not have great friends, it gives them the opportunity



Waverley Elementary School's Lynda Parrott is surrounded by members of the knitting club. METRO FILE

to be friends with another group of students," she said.

Every recess and lunch break, students are welcome

to swing by the office and sit on the floor around Parrott's desk, knitting small projects like scarves, bracelets and

headbands.

"They touch my heart," said Parrott about the students. "(Some kids) just need a little extra TLC."

Waverley principal Reg Crawford called Parrott a pro at reaching students.

"We don't have counsellors at the school, so staff have taken on counsellor roles. (Parrott) has a knack for it and has an interest in learning more," Crawford said.

A lot of kids have gotten to know Parrott and built a strong connection, Crawford said.

"She probably handles as many discipline problems as I do," he said.

LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

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ELECTION 2015 DEBATE TIME IS UPON US

STRATEGY

Leaders to joust in televised debate

Television can make or break a politician. Just ask Richard Nixon (well, he's dead, but you get the point).

As party leaders prepare for tonight's debate, we asked Bob Murray, vice-president of research at the Frontier Centre, about what each has to do to come out on top.

Jim Prentice, PCs

Must do:

"He has to return his messaging to his own narrative about why his 10-year fiscal plan makes sense and why this required us to go to the polls."



Jim Prentice
METRO FILE

Should avoid: "The big thing that he has to avoid is allowing the opposition parties to distract him from his message and take him down a road where they spend more time talking about flip flopping, PC broken promises."

Rachel Notley, NDP

Must do:

"She has to be able to appeal to the widest audience possible, a truly provincial outlook, for the NDP to be seen as a viable governing alternative."



Rachel Notley
METRO FILE

Should avoid: "She has to avoid talking about increasing taxes and making (bigger) gov-

ernment ... sound like a really bad thing."

Brian Jean, Wildrose

Must do:

"Brian Jean needs to let people know who Brian Jean is, so not only does he have to let people know about the Wildrose platform, but he has to insert some personality so people can actually see him as a likeable figure."



Brian Jean
METRO FILE

Should avoid: "He has to avoid going down a road where he is so anti-PC that he makes the Wildrose look like a fringe party and he scares people off."

David Swann, Liberals

Must do:

"David Swann has to convince people that the Alberta Liberal Party is not dead."



David Swann
METRO FILE

Should avoid: "He has to avoid seeming like he is saying whatever he has to say to make it seem like the Liberal party is alive, and then making outlandish promises."

Where to watch:

The debate runs from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on all Global stations, Shaw community television and will be broadcast on radio on 630 CHED. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO



Alberta Liberal Leader David Swann follows his grandson Kiel Archuleta, 4, as he climbs the Calgary Tower in the Alberta Wilderness Association's Climb and Run for Wilderness on Saturday. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Swann willing to take hits for Grits

PROFILE

Interim Liberal leader steps in to stop party's slide



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

It's a party that's formed government and, in 1993, came close to ending the multi-decade PC dynasty. But in 2015, Liberal Leader David Swann may be leading his party, which currently holds five seats in the legislature, to a

near disappearance in the May 5 election.

Swann is the party's interim leader after the resignation of Raj Sherman earlier this year. In an earlier interview, he said he came close to not running in this election at all.

"I was considering retirement and then I realized I would be the last opposition member in Calgary," he said.

Swann has been Liberal leader before — he led from 2008 to 2011 — but did not take it into the election in 2012. Instead, Swann was pushed out in 2011.

Corey Hogan, the party's executive director at the time, said Swann was sent packing as leader largely for pushing a co-operation

agenda with other parties.

"He jumped on the grenade of co-operation and he lost his leadership for it, and now he is jumping on another grenade," he said.

"He likes being that guy in all of the good senses and all of the bad senses," he said. "He's the only MLA I can think of who has ever gone on a hunger strike outside an MP's office."

Indeed, Hogan said he doesn't understand why Swann is stepping in this time.

"It looks less like principle and more like somebody who likes to jump on grenades," he said.

After Sherman's departure, the only other possible interim leader was Edmonton-Centre MLA

Laurie Blakeman. She pushed for co-operation with other parties and asked the party's board to make her interim leader with that understanding but was turned down.

Blakeman said Swann takes principled stances but they're ultimately for the right reasons.

"Some people call him the yogi or the guru, and we're teasing him, but it's not that far off," she said. "He really is someone who lives the life he wants to see."

For his part, Swann said he feels called to defend the centrist position the Liberals represent. "This is about my children, my grandchildren, my people in this province," he said.

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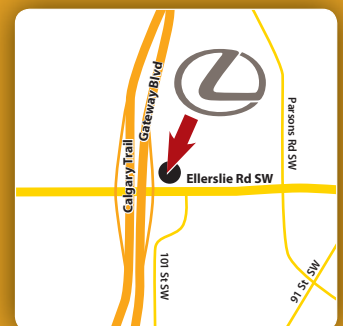
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METROTALKS GREG CLARKWE SIT DOWN WITH THE **HEAD OF THE ALBERTA PARTY****REFLECTING
'MODERN
ALBERTA'**

In Metro's third editorial board session with party leaders, Greg Clark sat down with our reporters and editors to explain his vision for the province. Here's what he said, issue by issue:

ON HIS PARTY

Greg Clark doesn't entertain the notion his fledgling party will be shut out again on May 5. "We're going to win the seat in this election. I am quite confident of that," he said.

He said his party reflects where the province is going. "The Alberta Party reflects modern Alberta, and I think we connect with modern Alberta," he said.

Not only is Clark confident his party will succeed where others have failed, he believes the province's politics are on the verge of a major change.

"People around the province have moved on from PC Alberta. I really believe we are seeing the end of PC Alberta."

Clark, whose campaign has had an intense focus on his own riding of Calgary-Elbow, said this is the beginning of a long game to bring the party to power but he has to start with a seat in the legislature.

"There are no silver medals in politics and there are no shortcuts, so we will build this the right way," he said.

HEALTH

For Clark, improving health care starts with recognizing that people working in the system are just trying to do the best by their patients.

"They care about other people and they genuinely want to keep people well," he said.

He said he's worried about the cost of health care but also believes it's the most sensible investment.

"If we are not spending money on health care, then what the hell are we spending it on? However, I think

we can find ways to spend the \$18.5 billion more effectively," he said.

Part of spending money more effectively, Clark said, is recognizing that people are much easier to treat before they end up in hospital.

"We know the only thing that actually bends the cost curve of health care over time is a focus on primary care."



There are no silver medals in politics and there are no shortcuts, so we will build this the right way.

Greg Clark

EDUCATION

The Alberta Party would reduce funding to some private schools and redirect some of those funds to lowering fees for public-school learners.

"We're talking about elite private schools, which are exclusionary and exclusive," Clark said. "Those schools can and should continue to exist, but the taxpayer shouldn't fund them to exist."

Clark does support private schools that support vulnerable and special-needs students but he questioned why those programs wouldn't be included in the public-school sector.

Clark said he believes more timely new-school construction would steer more families away from private schools. He said he's aware of a cul-de-sac in Calgary's Altadore community where there are 19 kids and they go to seven different schools.

"The kids live next door to each other and don't know each other.... That doesn't create a sense of community and a sense of connectedness, which

**Things to
know about
Greg Clark**

1 He's a big-time Flames fan. Like, big time. "I was at the very first-ever

Calgary Flames game when I was nine years old, on Oct. 9, 1980. It was 5-5 against the Quebec Nordiques.... I've still got the ticket stub. I've been a Calgary Flames fan since Day 1. I can talk Flames all day.

2 His wife is a palliative-care physician.

"The people in health care, almost to a person, they've gone into health care because they care about other people and they genuinely want to keep people well."

schools do," he said. "To me, if we're not investing in schools, what are we doing?"

POST-SECONDARY

Clark says he would fight to leave tuition be, with increases tied to the rate of inflation.

"If you raise tuition significantly, what students will do is they will start to take three to four classes every semester and then take four, five, six, seven years to finish their degree because they have to fund it," he said.

Clark said he supports a broad-based post-secondary sys-

tem that supports everything from trades to social-sciences teaching to fine arts. He says schools with available space, like Mount Royal University, need to be funded for all the student seats they have available to boost access.

"It's just a question of values," he said. "What I value is strong education of all kinds, K-12 and post-secondary."

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

An Alberta Party government wouldn't consider itself a higher-level government than cities and towns.

"They need a seat at the grown ups' table, and we must get away from this top-down, province-knows-best kind of model," he said.

He said municipalities have the right to make their own decisions, even if they want to charge new taxes.

"I am very open to a discussion about the possibility of new revenues for municipalities," he said.

Clark said if citizens of Calgary and Edmonton want better services, they would accept higher taxes. If they don't, that's a legitimate choice as well.

"I'm willing to pay fair value to get those things and I will elect councillors who do those things," he said. "Let's let the democratic process work."

METRO

+ QUICK Q&A**What's your party's biggest weakness?**

"We have candidates in about half the constituencies because the election's a year early. We, unfortunately, get many emails every day from people saying, 'I wish there was an Alberta Party candidate in my constituency.' We're only going to run people who are high-quality, local candidates who would be a great MLA if elected."

Is there a TV show you binge-watch?

"Better Call Saul."

Finish this sentence. If I wasn't a politician, I would be ...

"Entrepreneur. That's what I was before I was a politician. I like to build things and I like to work with interesting people who have big ideas and I like to learn from those people."



NOVA SCOTIA RCMP CONCLUDES SEARCH FOR MAN MISSING IN ATLANTIC. The RCMP concluded their search Wednesday for a 25-year-old man who was swept into the Atlantic Ocean from the rocky edges of Peggy's Cove. Police said an underwater recovery team will be deployed once sea conditions permit. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Libyans not paying student bill

NOVA SCOTIA

University life on hold, as tuition deal not honoured

When Albahloul Omar Idhbeaa came from Libya to Nova Scotia to complete his doctorate, he came with the understanding that his home country would cover his tuition and the cost of supporting his family.

But he says when he went to register for his upcoming summer semester, he ran into a problem.

"I went to the lady who is working at the student accounts and she told me I owe them money and they're holding my account," said Idhbeaa, a second-year doctoral student in engineering at Dal-

housie University in Halifax.

Now he says he can't sign up for summer classes or see his grades from last semester.

Idhbeaa is one of many Libyan students who have come to Canada through the Libyan-North American Scholarship Program, intended to cover tuition, living expenses and health insurance for graduate students.

More than 1,100 Libyans at schools across Canada benefit from the program, according to the Canadian Bureau for International Education, the organization responsible for administering funding from the Libyan government.

Earlier this month, the bureau issued a statement saying it was placing a hold on financial support letters for Libyan students because their government had not transferred funds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Search ing for Canadian lost in Australia

Police in South Australia are hoping to stir up new leads in the case of a Saskatchewan man who vanished 45 years ago while on a working holiday there.

Investigators say Gordon Rogers was last seen at a party in the town of Beachport, about 400 kilometres southeast of Adelaide, in the early morning hours of Aug. 2, 1970.

He was 20 at the time. Police say they suspect he was murdered.

Now a \$200,000 reward is being offered to anyone who provides information that leads to his remains or an arrest in the case.

Rogers' disappearance is among more than 100 cold cases featured in a campaign that South Australian police say has generated hundreds of tips since February.

They say Rogers arrived in Sydney on a 12-month visa in March 1970 and travelled a bit before taking a labourer

job with the Woods and Forest Department.

Police say he planned to work with the department for six weeks before travelling to New Zealand.

The night he disappeared, Rogers was at a party with a friend who then left to take his girlfriend home, police said.

The friend asked another man to take Rogers home.

That man later told authorities he took a woman home

1970

The year Gordon Rogers vanished from a party in Australia.

and when he returned to the party, Rogers was gone. No one has seen or heard from him since.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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MOHAMED FAHMY FINALLY GETS A PASSPORT Canadian Al Jazeera English journalist Mohamed Fahmy holds his temporary passport Wednesday near Tora prison in Cairo, Egypt. Fahmy, facing broadly denounced terror charges, was finally given a temporary Canadian passport Wednesday. His original passport was seized during his arrest in December 2013. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trudeau hinting at economic plan

POLITICS

Liberal leader promises to balance budget

Justin Trudeau is starting to show some of his economic cards now that the Conservative government has laid its election hand on the table.

The Liberal leader says he would reverse the Tories' plan to almost double the maximum amount Canadians can sock away in their tax-free savings accounts.

And he's promising that the Liberals would balance next year's budget should they win this fall's election.

Trudeau disclosed those details Tuesday, after the Conservatives

laid out their economic and fiscal blueprint in the Harper government's 11th federal budget, its last before the October election.

He revealed another on Wednesday: he'd keep the Conservatives' plan to cut the 11 per cent small business tax rate by two points over four years.

However, he said a Liberal government would look at a different way of implementing the cut so that it wouldn't wind up benefiting primarily the wealthy, as many economists have predicted will happen. In addition to those particulars, insiders say Trudeau intends to unveil in the next few weeks a major economic plank from his party's eventual election platform.

Until now, Trudeau has offered sparse details — like promises to

“

Our platform will be fully costed, fiscally responsible and a balanced budget.

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau

scrap the government's income-splitting measure and to roll back the age of eligibility for old age security to 65 from 67 — while steadily resisting pressure to reveal platform proposals before the fall campaign.

With the fiscal lay of the land now clear, he hinted broadly Wednesday that he'll be more forthcoming soon about Liberal economic policy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Mike Duffy's P.E.I. home plot thickens

TRIAL
Claims of main residence were no mistake, court hears

Just days after he was formally sworn into the Senate in January 2009, Mike Duffy took deliberate steps that ensured he would collect living expenses totalling some \$81,000 over the next four years, court heard Wednesday.

Crown attorney Jason Neubauer drove home the point that it was no accident Duffy declared his cottage in Prince Edward Island his primary residence, having consciously filled out the paperwork to do so.

As a result, his home in Ottawa, which he had owned for seven years prior to his appointment to the Senate, suddenly became his secondary residence.

The suspended senator has already pleaded not guilty to 31 charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery, most of them linked to living and travel expenses which he claimed from



Suspended senator Mike Duffy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

the public purse.

On Parliament Hill, meanwhile, the question of Duffy's residency roared back to prominence.

During question period, NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair seized on the fact that Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the man who appointed Duffy to the Senate in the first place, has already publicly defended his eligibility to represent P.E.I.

"Did the prime minister make

sure Mike Duffy met that requirement before he appointed him to the Senate, yes or no?" Mulcair asked.

For the first time, Harper appeared to suggest it was Duffy's fault for filling out forms that said he was resident in P.E.I., as the Constitution demands.

Duffy's lawyer, however, has said that Duffy was operating within the rules of the Senate, as they were laid out when he was appointed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SASKATCHEWAN

Mom, children killed

A man went to a mobile home in rural Saskatchewan and killed a woman and her three children, but spared an infant, say Mounties.

He then took the six-month-old baby and drove 130 kilometres from the town of Tisdale to Prince Albert, where he killed himself. The infant was found unharmed and is being cared for by family.

RCMP spokeswoman Mandy Maier told reporters Wednesday that officers received a call from

a family member around Tuesday evening, saying the woman and children hadn't been heard from all day and couldn't be reached.

Police did not release the names of the children, but said they were all under the age of nine. Police believe they were killed before they were reported missing.

The suspect was known to the victims, Maier said, adding she couldn't give the relationship or a possible motive.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRIME

Two plead guilty in Loretta Saunders case

Over a year after the remains of a young university student were found beside a highway in rural New Brunswick, two people from Halifax pleaded guilty to murder in the death of Loretta Saunders. On Wednesday, Blake Leggette changed his plea to guilty and Victoria Henneberry pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of second-degree murder. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Calorie deficit taking its toll

CHALLENGE DAY 3

Metro reporter feels his energy flagging on a \$1.75-a-day diet



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

There are those daily routines in life that you seldom expect to change.

Like the 30 or so pushups I do every morning before taking a shower. I've been doing that for so long that I don't even think about it. But since taking on the Live Below the Line challenge this week, I've started to feel my body letting me down.

It started Tuesday evening on my way home from work. As I sat on the train, I started reading an ESPN column that I had downloaded earlier about the NBA

LIVING BELOW THE LINE

The reporter: Gilbert Ngabo works for Metro in Toronto. He moved to Canada from Rwanda five years ago.

The mission: To live on just \$1.75 a day for five days — a challenge made to all Canadians by the Global Poverty Project, which says that's the daily budget of those who live below the poverty line.

The series: Day 3 of 5, a tired Gilbert Ngabo sizes up his diet on \$1.75 versus the ideal diet.

playoffs. That's what I do every day on my commute. But this time, I kept falling asleep before finishing two paragraphs. After

many failed attempts, I pulled a book out of my bag, thinking my eyes were just tired of looking at screens. But I couldn't finish a page before dozing off.

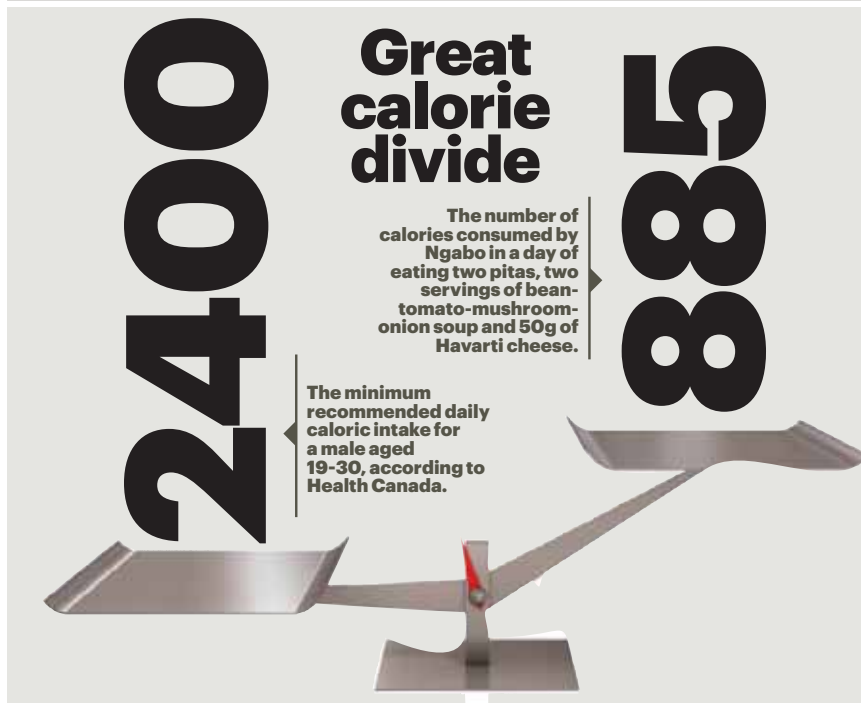
It's not as if I was overly tired from work. Instead, it's a testament to the physical, emotional and mental toll that not eating enough can take on you.

I had lunched on a meagre meal of bean soup and a piece of pita bread, the same thing I planned to eat for dinner. The previous night, I had woken up on multiple occasions, checking the time and realizing I was still hours from starting my morning routine. And a sense of emptiness in my whole body kept reminding me that I was hungry. When it was finally time to get out of bed, I felt so weak I didn't even try for a few pushups.

Nutritionist Theresa Albert was shocked when I told her what I've been eating.

"Very poor diet," she said, advising that I need regular nourishment and more varied foods, as

BY THE NUMBERS Health Canada versus the \$1.75 diet



well as enough calories.

Studies show that men aged 19 to 30 should consume at least 2,400 calories a day to maintain a healthy body. With \$1.75 as a daily food budget, I'm not even getting half of that.

If I continued on this diet for an extended period of time, some critical processes in my body would start to shut down, such as my brain and immune system, Albert told me.

It made me think of all the

kids from poor families, going to school with half-empty stomachs. If I can't concentrate on reading a piece of news after only two days on this challenge, how are they going to sit in a class all day and follow their teachers?

LAW SUIT

Sex was consensual, claims son of Tim Hortons co-founder



The "Destination Fox Harb'r Too," owned by Tim Hortons co-founder Ron Joyce. In a statement of defence, Joyce's son Steven denies attacking a woman aboard the luxury megayacht last October. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The son of Tim Hortons co-founder Ron Joyce says the sex he had with a woman accusing him of assaulting her aboard a luxury megayacht was "vigorous" but always consensual, and sometimes included other women, according to court documents filed Wednesday.

In a statement of defence obtained by The Canadian Press, Steven Joyce denies attacking Elizabeth Kelly aboard the "Destination Fox Harb'r Too" last October.

He also argues that her

\$5.75-million lawsuit, which has caused him and his family "profound embarrassment and humiliation," was nothing more than an attempt to force him to pay her "significant" money.

"Steven and Elizabeth's sexual relationship included a wide variety of consensual acts, including anal intercourse," the statement asserts.

"On many occasions, that consensual sexual activity was vigorous."

Earlier this year, Kelly sued

Joyce and his billionaire father Ron Joyce, alleging the son had sexually and physically assaulted her on the yacht in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

The Toronto woman, who was in Florida to celebrate her 50th birthday, said she and a friend were aboard the yacht at the invitation of the younger Joyce, who is in his late 40s.

According to her claim, Kelly and Joyce were in bed when he invited another woman to join them in bed. When the other woman refused, she says, Joyce

grabbed the woman and tried to force her onto the bed. In the ensuing melee, Kelly said she suffered serious and permanent injuries to her hand.

She also alleges that she and Joyce were leaving the upper-deck hot tub later that day when he attacked her.

"Steven Joyce, without warning, suddenly and inexplicably, forced the plaintiff face down on a chaise lounge and subjected the plaintiff to a vicious sexual battery," her claim states. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Authorities probe a small drone on the roof of the Japanese prime minister's office.
KOTA ENDO/KYODO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drone lands on Japan PMO's roof

SECURITY

Incident raises alarm over potential for terror attacks

Japanese authorities said they were investigating after a small drone laced with traces of radiation was found Wednesday on

the roof of the prime minister's office, sparking concerns about drones and their possible use for terrorist attacks.

No injuries or damage were reported from the incident. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was in Indonesia to attend an Asian-African conference.

Police said it was not immediately known who was responsible for the drone. They were investigating the possibility it

had crashed during a flight.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said a drone landing at the prime minister's office was a wake-up call to problems caused by the unmanned aerial devices, including the possibility of terrorist attacks when Japan hosts a Group of Seven summit next year or during the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. The drone was about 1.7 feet in diameter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS APPROVE MANDATORY VACCINATIONS FOR SCHOOL KIDS Tianna Hazard of Oakland wipes tears on Wednesday as she and her nine-month-old daughter leave a hearing at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., where lawmakers approved a measure requiring school-children to be vaccinated. RICH PEDRONCELLI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Man rescued from tracks

A man was rescued from the tracks at a Washington, D.C., Metro station after his wheelchair rolled off the platform.

Surveillance video shows two bystanders jumping onto the tracks to lift the man and his wheelchair back onto the platform Tuesday afternoon at the U Street station. A Metro spokesman says the nearest train was three stops away when the bystanders jumped onto the tracks. Metro says the man who fell had a bloody mouth but no other visible injuries. It wasn't clear why the man's motorized wheelchair rolled off the platform.

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Walking for peace between Koreas

REUNIFICATION

Women plan to cross North to South in May

South Korea said Wednesday that it will likely support a proposed walk across the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas by prominent women including Gloria Steinem in what is planned as a call for the reunification of the two countries.

The government plans to approve the planned walk next month if it confirms North Korea's official support for the event, said Lim Byeong Cheol, a spokesman for the Unification Ministry, which handles affairs related to North Korea.

Organizers of the effort called WomenCrossDMZ.org said earlier that they had received permission from Pyongyang.

The South Korean government has yet to confirm

whether North Korea sent an official invitation to the women or expressed its support for the event to the UN Command at the DMZ.

Organizers plan to have 30 women cross from North Korea to South Korea on May 24, which is the International Women's Day for Disarmament.

A spokesman from the UN Command, who didn't want to be named citing official rules, said it usually approves civilian crossings when they are supported by both Koreas. Five New Zealanders crossed the DMZ with motorbikes in 2013 and a group of 32 Korean-Russians crossed the zone by motorcade last year after gaining permission from both sides.

Nobel peace laureates Mairead Maguire of Northern Ireland and Leymah Gbowee of Liberia, who were credited for their work to help end long-running conflicts in their countries, are among the women planning to join

Steinem, an influential writer and feminist activist, in crossing the DMZ at the village of Panmunjom, which straddles the border.

Although organizers promote the walk as a gesture for peace, some critics in the U.S. have accused some of the participants for having allegedly soft views on North Korea's oppressive regime and ugly human rights record, and questioned whether the march would serve in favour of Pyongyang's propaganda efforts.

A spokesman from the Korea Freedom Federation, South Korea's largest conservative civic group, said it has yet to determine its stance on the walk.

The DMZ is considered the world's most fortified border, separating the two Koreas still technically at war. The walk would mark the 70th anniversary of the division of the Korean Peninsula at the end of World War II.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A man faces North Korea at Imjingak park, south of the demilitarized zone. ED JONES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Computer shot eight times

For killing the source of his frustration and abandoning the body in an alley, a Colorado man could be considered lucky for just receiving a citation — except his victim was his computer.

The Colorado Springs Gazette reports that 37-year-old Lucas Hinch was slapped with a ticket for discharging a weapon within city limits after he took his computer outside and shot it eight times. Colorado Springs police Lt. Jeff Strossner said Hinch told him he had been fighting his computer for months. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bestiality outlawed

Denmark has outlawed bestiality, putting the small Scandinavian country in line with several European neighbours, including Germany, Sweden and Norway.

In a 91-75 vote Tuesday, Danish lawmakers approved banning sex with animals. Five abstained. The law proposal had been introduced in February by Denmark's farming minister. As of July 1, a person found guilty faces fines or prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Reagan shooter should be out of hospital: Lawyer

A lawyer for John Hinckley Jr., the man who shot U.S. President Ronald Reagan in 1981, says he's no longer a danger and should be allowed to live full-time outside a Washington, D.C., mental hospital.

Hinckley was 25 when a jury found him not guilty by reason of insanity in the assassination attempt. He has lived at St. Elizabeths, a Washington mental hospital, ever since. But he's 60 years old now and spends 17 days a month at his mother's home in nearby Virginia.

His attorney Barry Levine told a federal judge in Washington on Wednesday that Hinckley should live full-time on the outside, but a prosecutor opposed the plan, saying it doesn't include enough restrictions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japanese PM doesn't offer WWII apology

South Korea expressed deep regret Wednesday that Japan's leader did not repeat his predecessors' apologies for the country's aggression during World War II.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told Asian and African leaders in Indonesia on Wednesday that Japan has "feelings of deep remorse" over the war. But he did not express a "heartfelt apology" for Japan's past "colonial rule and aggression" — key phrases that previous prime ministers have used in official statements about the war.

Abe's remarks are fueling speculation that he also will not apologize in a key statement in August marking the 70th anniversary of the end of the war.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



IN REMEMBRANCE THE HORRORS OF WAR Canadian Ambassador to Belgium Denis Robert, left, and German Ambassador to Belgium Eckart Cuntz prepare to lay wreaths during a commemoration service at the World War I Canadian Monument, The Brooding Soldier, in St. Julien, Belgium, on Wednesday. Belgian King Philippe also led a centennial remembrance in Flanders Fields marking the first use of chemical weapons in warfare. VIRGINIA MAYO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Officer, victim had previous encounter

SHOOTING

Policeman saved Mexican worker from fire in January

One of the officers who killed an immigrant farmworker in Washington state in a shooting that helped fuel the nationwide debate over police use of force had dragged the man away from his burning rental home just weeks earlier.

Antonio Zambrano-Montes, who in another case

had pleaded with police to kill him, was sitting on the ground in January in a meth-induced trance near the fire when Officer Adam Wright found him, according to documents obtained by the Associated Press under public records requests.

Weeks later, Wright and two other officers shot Zambrano-Montes after he had been throwing rocks in a busy intersection.

Video footage that showed the Mexican man running away, then turning around with arms outstretched just as police unloaded, prompted months of protests. Similar

66

Any time you see a police officer shoot someone who is known to have mental health issues, it makes you wonder.

Sue Rahr, heads of Washington's Criminal Justice Training Commission

demonstrations have erupted in other U.S. cities over police killings, some of unarmed black men.

The documents obtained by the AP shed new light on Zambrano-Montes' run-ins with police and his erratic, sometimes dangerous behaviour.

While Pasco police say their officers generally receive more training than state standards require, records show only a half-dozen had taken an extended course on dealing with people in the throes of drug abuse or mental-health crises — fewer than other departments in the region.

And none of the officers who shot Zambrano-Montes had that advanced training, the records show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SLAVERY

Thai fishing industry criticized

Modern-day slavery persists around the world, including the abuse of fishermen in the Thai seafood industry, whose catch can end up in U.S. markets, a congressional panel was told Wednesday.

"As has been reported for years, the Thai fishing industry is rife with forced labour, both on the high seas and within seafood processing and packing plants," Mark Lagon, former State Department ambassador for trafficking in persons, told a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee.

Lagon, who now heads Freedom House, a non-profit organization that advocates for human rights, said it remains to be seen whether the Obama administration will impose sanctions it is authorized to deploy, which would bar Thai seafood from U.S. markets.

The State Department's key weapon for combatting human trafficking comes in a politically charged annual ranking in "tiers" — Tier 1 is best, 2 means more could be done, and 3 is a blacklist that can spark sanctions. The House global human rights subcommittee urged the Obama administration to come down hard on those countries that violate human rights when it releases the report in June.

Last month, the Associated Press reported on hundreds of fishermen whose catch is exported from Thailand to the U.S. who were working as modern day slaves, held in cages on the Indonesian island community of Benjina, whipped with sting ray barbs and forced to work at sea for years on end. To date, authorities have rescued some 370 of those men and identified hundreds more still trapped.

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Italy asks EU's help with migrant crisis

EUROPE

Some 90% of smugglers' boats leaving from Libya

Italy pressed the EU on Wednesday to devise robust steps to stop the deadly tide of migrants crossing the Mediterranean, including considering military intervention against smugglers and boosting UN refugee offices in countries bordering Libya.

"We know where the smugglers keep their boats, where they gather," said Defence Minister Roberta Pinotti. "The plans for military intervention are there."

Some 90 per cent of smugglers' boats leave from Libya, where the lack of a central authority coupled with extremists affiliated with ISIL have contributed to chaos and lawlessness that have allowed criminal trafficking networks to proliferate.

Pinotti said Italy was willing to take the helm of any military intervention if asked and as long as it is carried out as an international mission, backed by the United Nations.

Pinotti spoke a day before EU leaders hold an emergency summit in Brussels called in the wake of a shipwreck off Libya last weekend that may have killed more than 800 mi-



Migrants crowd an inflatable dinghy as rescue vessel Denaro (not pictured) of the Italian Coast Guard approaches them, off the Libyan coast, in the Mediterranean Sea, Wednesday. In the background is a merchant ship. ALESSANDRO DI MEO/ANSA VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

grants. It would be the highest known loss of migrant lives in a single incident in the Mediterranean.

Ahead of the summit, Premier Mario Renzi called for EU leaders to approve three key proposals: doubling the resources and assets of the current EU border patrol mission; destroying smugglers' boats

and improving co-ordination across the EU for transferring asylum seekers.

"European Union naval operations in the Horn of Africa have successfully fought piracy — and a similar initiative must be developed to effectively fight against human trafficking in the Mediterranean," Renzi wrote in a New York

Times opinion piece. "Trafficking vessels should be put out of operation."

In the latest arrivals of migrants, an Italian naval vessel docked in the Sicilian port of Augusta with 446 people who had been rescued off the southern coast of the Italian mainland. The navy said 59 were children. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS

Extremist shoots himself in the leg

An Islamic extremist with an arsenal of loaded guns was prevented from opening fire on churchgoers only because he accidentally shot himself in the leg, French officials said Wednesday.

The 24-year-old computer science student, who was also suspected in the death of a young woman whose body was found on Sunday shortly before his arrest, had been flagged as a risk for intent to travel to Syria but there had been no specific reason to open a judicial investigation, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said Wednesday.

Paris Prosecutor Francois Molins said the suspect — an Algerian who had lived in France for several years — was arrested in Paris Sunday after he apparently shot himself by accident and called for an ambulance.

He was waiting outside his apartment building for first aid when police arrived. They

followed a trail of blood to his car, which contained loaded guns, and notes about potential targets.

A search of his apartment in southeastern Paris turned up more weapons including three Kalashnikov assault rifles along with phones and computers that police used to establish that he'd been in communication with someone "who could have been in Syria," Molins said at a news conference.

This person "explicitly asked him to target a church," Molins said, declining to answer questions about the investigation.

Police also found Arabic-language material that mentioned al-Qaida and ISIL in the man's apartment, Molins said.

There was no immediate evidence that the suspect had direct ties to any organized groups, said a French security official who was not authorized to publicly release details.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



IN BRIEF

Saudis launch airstrikes on Yemen rebels after saying operation was over

Saudi-led airstrikes targeted Iran-backed rebels and their allies in Yemen on Wednesday, hours after Riyadh declared an end to a nearly month-long air campaign. The Shiite forces later said they would welcome United Nations-led peace talks to end a conflict that's killed hundreds without dislodging them from the capital.

The rebels, known as Houthi, say they call for a resumption of dialogue.

"We welcome any United Nations efforts that are on the side of peaceful solutions," Houthi spokesman Mohamed Abdul-Salam said in a statement, which came as thousands of angry Houthi supporters marched in the capital, Sanaa, denouncing what they described as "Saudi-American aggression." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EMERGENCY

Storm kills dozens in India

An unseasonal storm with heavy rain and hail killed at least 42 people, injured more than a hundred and caused heavy damage to the winter wheat crop in eastern India, officials said Wednesday.

Most of the deaths were caused Tuesday night by tin roofs that were blown off of poor people's huts by winds reaching 65 km/h in northeastern parts of Bihar state, meteorologist R.K. Giri said. The storm subsided before daybreak.

Nitish Kumar, the state's top elected official, visited some of the worst-hit areas and said 30 deaths were reported in Purnea, seven in Madhepura and the rest in Madhubani and other districts.

Thousands of poor people have become homeless as a result of the storm, he said, adding the storm also badly damaged mango and lychee crops.

Authorities launched relief efforts in 10 districts hit by the storm. The area is about 360 kilometres northeast of Patna, the state capital.

Unseasonal rain and hailstorms in March destroyed large areas of farmland in northern and western India, leading dozens of debt-



Volunteers of the Aam Admi Party try to rescue Gajendra Singh, who hanged himself during a farmer's rally in New Delhi, India, Wednesday. SAURABH DAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ridden farmers to kill themselves.

On Wednesday, a man at a farmers' rally in the Indian capital climbed a tree and hanged himself with a white scarf, according to images broadcast by the New Delhi Television channel. Some volunteers of the Aam Admi Party, the rally organizers, tried to save him by untying the noose and rushing him to a hospital.

However, he was declared dead at the hospital, said

S. Saxena, an official of the Ram Manohar Lohia hospital.

"I am the son of a farmer. He threw me out of home because of damage to the crop. I have three children. I don't have the money to feed my children. Hence, I want to commit suicide," said a note recovered from the spot.

It was the latest in a wave of suicides that has left at least 40 farmers dead in recent weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHINA

Workers die in coal mine flood

Search teams have recovered the bodies of 19 Chinese coal miners who died when the shaft where they were working filled with water, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Wednesday.

The updated death toll came as rescuers were working frantically to find two miners still listed as missing. More than 600 rescuers have been working to pump water from the

shaft and drill holes from the surface at the Jiangjiawan mine near the northern city of Datong.

A total of 247 miners were underground when water rushed into the shaft Sunday evening.

Of those, 223 people made it safely to the surface while three of those trapped were rescued and were recovering in hospital.

Such accidents are usually caused by breaches of abandoned shafts where water has collected over time.

China has seen a dramatic drop in accidental deaths in its notoriously dangerous mines, partly as a result of improved safety measures but also because of falling coal production levels as the slowing economy reduces demand.

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

We don't know their names, but they're still our problem

"I wish I had their names," the caller said.

Ronke from Greenwich was on a U.K. radio show debating controversial Sun columnist Katie Hopkins over the hundreds of thousands of migrants who are increasingly charting a dangerous course over the Mediterranean to reach the shores of Italy, and a life in Europe.

An estimated 800 people from Syria, Eritrea and other countries drowned on the weekend. Only 27 on board the boats survived, according to the UN. European leaders are in Brussels to push through an emergency plan that boosts patrol and rescue operations and increases efforts to settle migrants.

In a column that has sparked calls for her firing, Hopkins compared migrants to cockroaches. "Gun ships," like those deployed to keep migrants out of Australia, is the solution, she wrote.

Her "turn them back" ideology has support in Europe, and it doesn't fall far from the ideology behind our own government's effort to evict about 70,000 longtime migrant workers, so Canadians have first dibs on their jobs.

In the words of New Yorker writer Mattathias Schwartz, referencing illegal immigrants in the U.S., "the goal of Western immigration policy is to keep people out." And clearly it's not working.

"We can't afford at the mo-

ment to take on the problems of the world," Hopkins said during that radio call. "I do believe these boats need pushing back."

So simple, isn't it? Except it is, of course, not a solution.

The images of drenched and terrified survivors that covered newspapers this week is about so much more than any one person's desperate attempt to escape horrors at home. It is about colonial pasts, current wars, and corporate greed in countries like Eritrea, where there are allegations of a Canadian mine using forced labour.

It's about Western lifestyles dependent on poor nations with terrible human rights records (think Bangladesh and the garment industry). It is about politics, domestic and international, and identity — what your race and nationality says about where you belong. (An Ekos survey last month found that 41 per cent of Canadians think there are too many visible-minority immigrants.)

Hopkins can delude herself that none of that is an English, or Western, problem. I cannot.

The hundreds who died weren't the first, and they won't be the last. A reported 170,000 people crossed the Mediterranean last year, and more are expected in 2015.

We may never know their names, Katie Hopkins, but that doesn't mean their plight is not our problem.

Policy deficit hides behind the surplus

POLITICS

Chantal Hébert



In one of his more exuberant moments in the role of Conservative cheerleader, Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney called Tuesday's pre-election budget his "best-seller."

Listening to the Quebec minister on Montreal radio, one could easily picture him clutching the budget to his chest as he spoke.

It is even possible that he slept with the 300-page brick under his pillow. After all, it devotes an entire chapter to his public safety file.

Over the years Blaney's faith in Stephen Harper has been shown to border on religious and he has exhibited a zeal in defending the government's agenda that is second to none among cabinet members.

Still, in this instance, the minister's giddiness reflects the mood of his government colleagues as they fast-forward to the upcoming campaign.

Given a choice, it is a rare MP seeking re-election who would not prefer coming to a voter's doorstep bearing gifts.

Tuesday's budget fulfils most, if not all, of the fiscal commitments undertaken by Harper — starting with a fresh dose of tax relief now that the books are (tenu-

ously?) balanced. Anyone holding out for that promised adult-fitness tax credit should know that it is work in progress ...

For better or for worse the budget reflects the philosophy of the ruling Conservatives.

They will be comfortable selling it on the campaign trail.

But the budget's greatest strength is also its main weakness for it stands to reinforce the very reason why a majority of voters opted to support one of the other parties four years ago.

Those voters were, for the most part, driven to other choices by a deficit of Conservative policy ambition on almost every front — from the environment to social programs — that used to account for a significant part of the mission of past federal governments.

Tuesday's budget compounds that deficit.

The environment is covered by a few paragraphs but the words "climate change" are blatantly absent from its numerous pages.

If anyone remembered that, back in 2005, offering Canadians a wait-time guarantee for medical care was one of the five priorities of the Harper Conservatives, he or she was not in the room when the 2015 budget was drafted.

So entrenched is the government's pro-tax-cut bias after nearly a decade

in power that it chooses to offer relief to voters in less-than-pressing need rather than address policy areas in dire need of attention.

And so it is that Canadians who have \$10,000 a year to spare on a tax-free savings account (TFSA) get a break, but urban commuters who endure daily traffic jams to get to work would have to wait for the second half of a fourth Conservative mandate before a major federal boost to public transit materializes.

Chances are swing voters still believe in a more activist government than the one Harper is offering.

A wise opposition would spend little time illustrating the fragility of the balancing act that has brought the Conservatives to exhibit a surplus in the budget.

That only undercuts the other parties' already reduced capacity to strike a credible course that is both different from that of the Conservatives and appealing.

The government's budget does paint the picture of steadily increasing budget surpluses — even after the full implementation of the latest round of tax cuts.

Choosing not to implement at least some of those cuts wouldn't necessarily come at great political cost. The government's spending priorities over the longer term are not cast in stone. They are subject to its re-election in the fall.

In the last election Harper made the promises he is now delivering conditional to the government's fiscal performance.

There is no reason why the opposition parties cannot similarly present Canadians with a blueprint designed to live up to the full ambitions of its authors over more than a single budget cycle.

With this budget, the Conservatives are hoping to bring back under their tent the voters who supported them four years ago but have since gone missing in the polls.

Many of them were Liberal sympathizers unhappy with Michael Ignatieff's campaign.

More than a few have come home since Justin Trudeau became party leader.

If they voted for Paul Martin or Jean Chrétien in the past, chances are those swing voters still believe in a more activist government than Harper is offering in this bare-cupboard budget.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

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McLaren's modern malaise



Leah McLaren's new novel follows the unravelling of a relationship thanks to built-up resentments. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

NEW NOVEL

Messy marriage tale unearths the roots of resentment

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Life

Leo Tolstoy was wrong when he wrote, "All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way" — all unhappy families are alike, too.

At least the families headed by 30-something, urbanite yuppies tend to be.

When the Russian author wrote the famous opening of Anna Karenina, the world hadn't yet been introduced to the troubled marriages of Nick and Amy Dunne in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*, or, more recently, Nick and Maya Wakefield in Leah McLaren's new novel, *A Better Man*.

Both books follow the unravelling of a relationship in which two people come to resent one another in a way only former lovers can. In both marriages, that acrimony builds thanks to a blame-game dynamic that's a result of interrupted careers, manipulative personalities, infidelity, and uprooted gender roles.

"Having been in quite a few unhappy relationships, I have to say, it does feel quite similar," laughs McLaren, a London-based journalist who writes a

column for the Globe and Mail.

She laughs at the comparison between her book and Flynn's blockbuster, which was turned into a movie last year. "I really hope that this book reminds everyone of *Gone Girl*, and every single person who bought *Gone Girl* can buy this book. Then my next divorce would be extremely expensive!" she jokes, during a visit this week to Toronto.

Divorce is the cloud that hovers in *A Better Man*, released by HarperCollins late last month, as the main character, Nick, suddenly becomes generous with his time and attention — remembering to bring the banana-nut bars during an outing with the kids, and not criticizing his wife's poor choice of wine at dinner.

He pretends to be the perfect husband on the advice of a lawyer — if he gives saving their marriage a college try, his wife, Maya, will be guilt-ridden enough to take it easy on him in their divorce settlement.

The premise is based on an actual trick used by high-billing divorce lawyers, McLaren says.

"It's quite the cynical ruse, but not unheard of in the an-

nals of family law, as horrifying as that might seem," she tells Metro. It's especially not unheard of in London, where the "super rich of the world" have had to divvy up their assets according to England's equitable divorce policy, she adds.

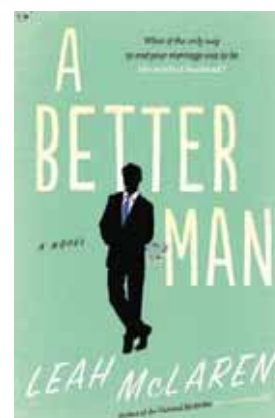
"I wanted to write about that stage of life of being married and having small children, and just how very, very intense it is," McLaren says. "Suddenly there's this crazy intersect, particularly for women, when the biggest years of career coincide with the same years you're supposed to have children. And it's just insane."

Career-driven women who leave their jobs may throw their energy into attachment parenting, as does Maya, an attorney who finds herself traversing between toddler yoga classes, the gym and therapy sessions. She gets her thrill from visiting a posh salon in a gritty neighbourhood, and worries she has become "a hopeless bourgeois cliché — an overeducated, underemployed housewife on the verge of an affair with her personal trainer."

In other words, she's the op-

He's living a life of distraction. All the women, all the booze, all the work. The beautiful, tailored exterior — it's all just a big sideshow.

Leah McLaren, on similarities between her main character, Nick, and *Mad Men*'s Don Draper, another of pop culture's bad husbands



posite of "Cool Girl," as ranted against in Flynn's novel by Amy Dunne. "Being the Cool Girl means I am a hot, brilliant, funny woman who adores football, poker, dirty jokes, and burping ..."

Maya's all-consuming, helicopter approach to parenting becomes a turn-off to Nick, who imagines sex with his wife as a kind of "erotic duty."

"Nick and Maya fall into stereotypical gender roles, and that's part of their problem," McLaren says.

"There is a real division of labour that happens and as women give birth it will often end up being a woman who then (makes) concessions, career-wise," she says.

The resentments that rise up as a result — her loss of status, his sense of being shut out of the family — turns out to be the book's exploration of what in modern times has become a common problem.

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Jesse Ship
Metro | Life

Konstantin Täts (aka @spentologist) is a self-professed watch hoarder who boasts over 25 timepieces in his collection — yet he still can't help checking the time on his phone every once in a while.

Digital technology has become ubiquitous these days from toasters to car engines, and while he's a fan of the innovation of the Apple Watch and newly announced partnerships from the likes of Tag Heuer and Microsoft, Täts, a Toronto-based commercial realtor, will always be in love with

the mechanical aspect of his timepieces.

"Every day I put on a watch, no matter what I'm wearing because it can be made to be both luxurious, sporty and fashionable depending on the way you dress it up or down. As well, a watch's movement has a similar beat to our hearts — it's a very natural thing to wear."

To check out what other watch enthusiasts are sharing online, follow #RedBar on Instagram.

Täts says the meetups he takes part in are "a bit of an exclusive club ... since sometimes over two million dollars worth of glass are on the table. But if someone wants to attend and they are a watch person, then we can work things out."

We spoke to experts about five of the more interesting watch trends on the market these days, and how to make them work with your look.



3 The Swatch

Launched in the '80s, Swatch set the Swiss economy back on fire with their low price points, cheery designs and interchangeable straps and faceplates. Despite their plastic bodies, quartz movements, and a plethora of commemorative editions, the populist brand still pushes out sought-after collectable pieces, especially the recent Sistem51 (\$150), a mechanical marvel made by a robot, composed of just 51 parts. Sporting a Swatch shows that you're a fun-loving individualist who doesn't take life too seriously.

4 The Trendy Watch

Timepieces with overstated faceplates are bound to get attention and help you stand out from the crowd at the club or in the boardroom. Diesel's (\$170-\$510) monstrous and metallic shiny bodies, Michael Kors' (\$300-\$579) signature rose gold and tortoise tones and U.K. newcomer Olivia Burton's (\$120-\$230) vintage-inspired faces are snapping up customer sales. The trend is also seeing retail trendsetters like J. Crew teaming up with Timex (\$114-\$172) for vintage-inspired military watches with quartz movements to keep the look perpetually in style.



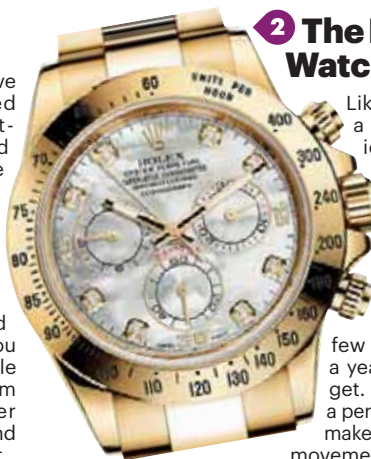
1 The Antique Pocket Watch

The owner may have received it passed down by a great-grandfather who hid it who knows where during time spent in the trenches of Gallipoli, or maybe the owner is just be an unabashed steam punk fanatic. Exude an aura of old world sophistication as you adjust your monocle and pull one out from your tweed blazer breast pocket to wind the daily movement.



2 The Mechanical Watch

Like a well-crafted Porsche, a well-maintained mechanical watch will most likely outlive its owner. Some — like the Rolex Paul Newman (starting at \$25,000) or Daytona (starting at \$10,000), may never go out of style, but for the serious collector, a "grand complication," made of a few hundred parts that takes a year to make is the ultimate get. Owners claim they create a personal bond with the watchmaker by wearing one due to the movement's fine-tuning.



5 The NATO

First introduced to the public by James Bond's Goldfinger (1964) where it was used to secure his Rolex Submariner to his wetsuit, the British military picked up the woven nylon style for their soldiers in the '70s. Today, NATOOs have reached mainstream, and interchangeable straps can cost as little as \$15 and go up to hundreds as crafty independent designers like Coq Straps and AP Bands have made use of fine leathers and stainless steel components for added personal flair. That might have the watch snob in your life giving the NATO a second glance.



IT'S ALL ON THE WRIST WEARING AN APPLE WATCH FROM DAWN TO DUSK

Apple's first new product in five years — and the company's first wearable gadget — makes its debut today in nine countries, including Canada. Apple Watch (from \$449) is worn on your wrist like a regular watch, but Apple's "most personal device we've ever created" goes above and beyond merely telling the time — especially when there's a nearby iPhone 5 or later to unlock its full functionality. A glimpse at how Apple Watch could revolutionize your day. MARC SALTZMAN



7 a.m.

Apple Watch's vibrating alarm wakes you — without disturbing your significant other. While getting dressed, you glance at the animated watch face which also shows the current weather and when your first appointment is.

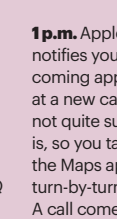


7:45 a.m. Raise your wrist and say "Hey Siri, Workout." Select "Outdoor Run" from the list of exercises, followed by a time, calorie burn or distance goal. Bluetooth headphones let you listen to music playing on the watch. Your watch can calculate your heart-rate after the run.



10:09 a.m.

While at the office you feel a tap on your wrist and look at the screen: "BBQ for dinner?" While you could reply with a pre-set answer or dictate a new one, instead you send an animated thumbs-up. While you're at it, tell your watch to remind you to pick up flowers at 5 p.m.



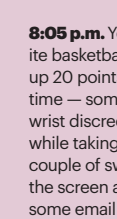
1 p.m.

Apple Watch notifies you of an upcoming appointment at a new café. You're not quite sure where it is, so you tap to open the Maps app to get turn-by-turn directions. A call comes in while walking down the street. Answer it on your watch and leave your phone in your pocket.



3:30 p.m.

You've been sitting at your desk for a long while, so your wrist buzzes to tell you to stand up and move around a bit. While getting a glass of water from the cooler you check the Activity app on the watch, which shows how close you are to your daily movement goals.



8:05 p.m.

Your favourite basketball team is up 20 points at half-time — something your wrist discreetly tells you while taking a walk. A couple of swipes across the screen also shows some email you need to deal with later and a reminder to check into tomorrow's flight to New York.



10:09 p.m.

After a relaxing round of Trivia Crack — one of the games you can download to Apple Watch — you realize it's time to charge it up. Attach the magnetic charging "puck" to the back of the watch and plug the other end of the cable into your computer's USB port.

Marking 30 years of classic American cool

INTERVIEW

Tommy Hilfiger on brand DNA, his style icons

Tommy Hilfiger says an all-American lifestyle has always been one of his sources of inspiration. As his namesake brand celebrates its 30th anniversary, the designer discusses his success, and his upcoming memoir.

Rafael Nadal has been named your brand ambassador — can you comment on this?

I'm continuously inspired by his dedication and passion for his sport. Rafael's style is effortless and really exemplifies our brand spirit — he's fun and cool, and doesn't take it too seriously.

Did you think the brand would grow to be this big?

I dreamed of having a globally recognized lifestyle brand but I never could have expected that our company would grow on such an incredible scale.



Designer Tommy Hilfiger at Fashion Week in New York City. GRANT LAMOS IV/GETTY IMAGES

We are very proud that today we have over 1,400 stores in more than 90 countries worldwide.

What is the key for a brand to succeed for so long?

Our signature look celebrates the East Coast Americana lifestyle with a West Coast twist that's laid-back, confident and cool. Our success has come

from defining this clear brand DNA and staying true to this heritage, and we love to see how our customers worldwide interpret our designs.

Why is America your main inspiration?

I have also always been drawn to iconic Americana and pop culture; some of my favourite style icons include Steve

McQueen, Grace Kelly, James Dean and Jackie O... Each has made a permanent mark in music, film or culture.

What will be in your memoir?

I'll be publishing my memoir in 2016 with Random House. I'll share my stories from all the milestone moments that have defined my career and my personal life. AFP

SUSTAINABILITY

From plastic bottles to your next jacket

If you buy a new coat from The North Face in 2016, it will likely be made from recycled content if, indeed, they meet the lofty goal they announced this week in which they aim to use 100 per cent recycled polyester by then.

Polyester makes up nearly 80 per cent of the fabric they use, so meeting their goal would mark a significant push for sustainability on their part.

The sportswear manufacturer hopes to use recycled plastic, thereby providing a much-needed outlet for used water and soda bottles.

The North Face says they will reduce dependence on fossil fuels, for the polyester manufacturing process has a lower impact on air and water resources if reusable materials are resourced.

Made entirely from recycled content, their Denali jacket is an existing example of products that meet their goal.

It's not the first time The North Face has taken the initiative to improve the integrity of their products.

In January 2014, The North Face drafted the Responsible Down Standard, vowing to source only cruelty-free down, avoiding farms that practise live plucking or force-feeding.

They gave the draft to the Textile Exchange to use as a standard for brands seeking a judiciously sourced supply of the coveted, ultra-warm filling and brands such as Marmot, Eddie Bauer, Helly Hansen and

Mammut now purchase RDS-certified plumes from Allied Feather & Down.

The North Face hopes to achieve 100 per cent RDS-certified down across the spectrum of its products by fall 2017.

AFP



The women's Denali Jacket
THENORTHFACE.COM



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Haylie Duff cooking up good ideas

LIFE SKILLS

The culinary school dropout believes anyone can learn to cook like a pro

If you'd like to become a better cook but are intimidated by the learning curve, take a page from Haylie Duff. The actress hosts Real Girl's Kitchen on the Cooking Channel and cheerfully calls herself "the cooking school dropout." After her lifestyle blog (also called Real Girl's Kitchen) started taking off, Duff thought she might like to take some classes, but movie shoots kept taking her away, and eventually Duff concluded she could get by without lessons. "If I can learn through trial and error, so can other people," she says. The new season of the show will feature a range of dishes, something Duff says she loves. "We're not really ever stuck in one style of food." Tune in for fresh takes on ramen, a "killer" steak and Greek meatballs. We got a little inside info from Duff on what her can't-miss kitchen items are.

Fave flavours

Garlic is often a key part of any cook's repertoire,



ANTHROPOLOGIE.COM

and Duff is no different. She says a garlic press is "definitely" one of her must-haves, and anyone who's ever struggled through chopping up a tiny garlic clove knows the feeling. "I feel like I use that so often because I hate having to sit there and chop garlic forever.

Skip the squeezing

Juicing lemons by hand is all too often a foolproof test to find out if you've got any paper cuts. That's why Duff recommends getting a lemon squeezer. "I put lemon in a lot of food, so any time that I can avoid having to pick out seeds and things like that, I love it," she explains. "I feel like it's my go-to."

Get by with a little help

Your knife skills may be without par, but there are times when it helps to get that little bit of extra assistance. That's why Duff recommends a mandoline. She says she uses hers "any time I'm making salad where I want to thinly slice radishes or celery. I have an apple fennel salad in my cookbook that I love and you basically can't make it unless you have a mandoline because everything is sliced really thin on it. It gives a professional feel to thinly sliced vegetables."

Chopping skills

Your kitchen won't be complete without a decent set of knives to get started.



Actress and lifestyle blogger Haylie Duff serves up a variety of recipes and ideas on her TV show Real Girl's Kitchen. HANDOUT/ORCA.TV

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Duff says that's pretty important, but acknowledges, "I have a bunch of knives, but the truth is I've got three that are just kind of my favourite, and I tend to go through those all the time. One's a little paring knife that's serrated so it chops through everything that's tiny, and then two big six-inch and eight-inch chopping knives."

LISA WEIDENFELD/METRO NEW YORK

+ RECIPE

Haylie Duff's Veggie and Yogurt Sandwich

Serves: 1

Ingredients

- 1 cup fat-free Greek yogurt
- 2 sprigs fresh dill, chopped
- 2 sprigs fresh mint, chopped
- 1 pinch sea salt
- 1 sliced carrot
- 1 sliced avocado
- 6-8 slices cucumber
- 1 handful arugula sprouts
- 1 handful chopped walnuts

Directions

Mix yogurt, dill and mint in a small mixing bowl. Spread across both sides of bread. Sprinkle with sea salt. Layer remaining ingredients.

TEXTING

Poop emoji comes in at No. 1 ... not No. 2

Forget the smiley face: A new report suggests Canadians like to add a little spice to their textspeak with suggestive — and pungent — picture icons.

SwiftKey, a company that produces software for typing on mobile devices, analyzed how its users interspersed emojis into their messages over a four-month period.

The analysis included Google Android and Apple iOS users who typed in 16 different languages.

The report found Canadians were in the top spot for using the not-so-subtle poop emoji.

Canadians' use of emojis that could be considered raunchy or sexual was double the overall average.

And the use of violent emojis like guns, knives, punching fists, fires, explosions, skulls and bombs was 50 per cent higher in Canada compared to the overall average.

"Canadians score highest in emoji categories some may consider to be more American," the report notes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



FASHION TRENDS

Givenchy to release the new 'it' bag

Givenchy has delved into the murky and fascinating depths of the oceans for the inspiration for its latest "it" bag, The Shark.

The Shark, which is available in three sizes, was first unveiled as part of Givenchy's pre-fall collection. It comes in a variety of colours and finishes including cream

and black monochrome, brown studded leather and a dusky beige hue. It is set to hit stores this June. AFP



Nothing like following a dream

DEBUT

First-time novelist's tale has personal parallels

Liz Brown
Metro | Life

As she wrote her very first novel, Sabrina Ramnanan only had to look to her father when she needed to verify facts about Trinidadian village life in the 1970s. The Toronto-raised daughter of Trinidadian parents, Ramnanan always relished her dad's stories about his life in the Caribbean and visited the island nation herself several times while growing up.

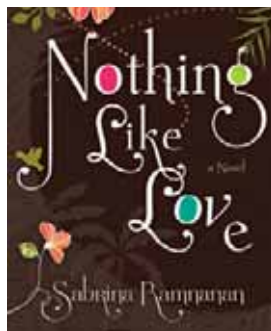
"My dad is a very vivid storyteller. He's almost been prepping me all my life to write this book because he's told me all these wonderful stories and they haven't been written down," she says.

Ramnanan combined the

tales of her parents with her own experiences on the island to build a story of forbidden love and a spirited young woman's break from small-town life. That story began as a personal project for the University of Toronto's creative writing certificate program, but soon caught the eye of a senior editor at Doubleday Canada who eventually would offer her a book deal.

"I feel so fortunate," she says, seated at a table in the O&B Canteen on the ground level of Toronto's TIFF Bell Lightbox Theatre. "Who would have known that this story I began working on five years ago — to entertain myself — would be received so well?"

Ramnanan's book, *Nothing Like Love*, is fast-paced and at times funny. The heroine, Vimla Narine, is an 18-year-old schoolgirl poised for village greatness. She acs her exams and is offered a coveted teaching position, but all that goes awry when it's discovered she's been secretly courting the pundit's son, Krishna Govind. On the surface, the book seems like a typical forbidden love story, but it's more than that. The discovery of Vimla and



“Who would have known that this story I began working on five years ago — to entertain myself — would be received so well?”

Sabrina Ramnanan

Krishna's secret affair reverberates through the community and affects a number of people in different ways. "It's really about au-

tonomy," says Ramnanan. "Vimla just wants to do what Vimla wants to do."

The storyline hits autobiographical notes for the 32-year-old Ramnanan. She too, became a teacher. "I thought it was practical," she admits. "There is some of that in Vimla. She does what is expected of her, she gets that teaching post and she gets swept up into it, but does she really want to do it? I don't think so."

Ramnanan says in her heart she always wanted to be a writer, so while working as a supply teacher, she began taking continuing education courses in creative writing. "I became obsessed with the classes because they kept me writing," she says.

Now, with her success — a first novel picked up by a major publisher — she has a new philosophy.

"I think when you do what you know deep down you are supposed to be doing, things work out the way they should. When you do what you're not supposed to do, or what other people think you should do, you come up with all these struggles that you wouldn't have had if you'd just followed your heart."



Sabrina Ramnanan says part of her research for her novel was going to Trinidad to just soak in the people, food, sights and smells. CONTRIBUTED

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Street art for your own wall

DECORATING

Artist Toxic designs wallpaper for Pierre Frey

The prestigious Parisian wallpaper and fabric maker has teamed with American street artist Toxic for a collaborative collection.

In an exclusive tie-up, Toxic and Pierre Frey have produced fabrics (\$312/metre), wallpaper (\$295/metre) and a panoramic wall covering (3.5 metres wide and 2.5 metres tall, \$1,380), all featuring vibrant colours and abstract, graffiti-style motifs.

There are two patterns available. The first is titled No Toys Allowed, perhaps to indicate that Toxic's career is no longer a game, as it may have been in his formative years. The second motif,

Eighty/Thirty, commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Pierre Frey brand, founded in 1935, and the 30th year of Toxic's career as an artist.

Fittingly, the launch of the collection coincides with a Parisian museum exhibit that includes four of Toxic's paintings. Pressionism, The Masterpieces of Graffiti on Canvas from Basquiat to Bando, 1970-1990 will be on display at the Pinacothèque through Sept. 13.

A key figure on the graffiti scene in 1980s New York, Toxic painted his first works on trains and walls, using art to draw attention to issues such as racial discrimination and violence.



Street artist Toxic. DOROTHÉE DEMEY/PIERRE FREY

He was friends with other future stars of the movement including Jean-Michel Basquiat, who was later brought into the spotlight in the art world by Andy Warhol, and Ram-mellzee.

In 2006, the Brooklyn Museum featured Toxic in its Graffiti exhibit, securing his reputation as one of the lead-

ing artists in the movement.

Three years later, his work was also featured in Paris at the Fondation Cartier's exhibit Né dans la rue — Graffiti.

This is not the first time Pierre Frey has collaborated with an artist. In September 2014, the brand invited French actress Louise Bourgoin to create a collection. AFP



Wallpaper designed by street artist Toxic for Pierre Frey. PIERRE FREY

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CONTROVERSY

Dr. Oz strikes back

Vowing that “we will not be silenced,” television’s Dr. Oz is fighting back against critics who are trying to get him removed from a faculty position at Columbia University.

Dr. Mehmet Oz will air an episode of his syndicated talk show on Thursday that specifically takes on the group of 10 doctors from around the country who wrote to a Columbia dean about him. The group suggested last week that Oz promotes “quack treatments” of weight loss supplements with no scientific proof that they work.

Oz taped a message previewing his show where he said he knows he has alienated people in “our quest to make America healthy.”

But he said freedom of speech is a fundamental right of Americans, and the other doctors are trying to silence him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Dr. Mehmet Oz.
GETTY IMAGES



Ben Affleck lobbied the host of *Finding Your Roots* to not reveal on the program that he had a slave-owning ancestor. GETTY IMAGES

Ben whitewashed slave owner roots

SONY HACK

Star wanted information omitted from PBS program

PBS is conducting an internal review following revelations that producers of *Finding Your Roots* may have violated the network’s editorial standards after a request by Ben Affleck that the program not reveal he had a slave-owning ancestor.

Meanwhile, Affleck has expressed regret for seeking to have the information omitted from the episode that featured the actor and aired last October.

“We deserve neither credit nor blame for our ancestors and the degree of interest in this story suggests that we are, as a nation, still grappling with the terrible legacy of slavery,” Affleck posted on his Facebook page Tuesday night.

The review by PBS and New York station WNET began Saturday, according to a statement released Tuesday by PBS spokeswoman Anne Bentley.

“We have been moving forward deliberately yet swiftly to conduct this review,” she said.

In his Facebook post, Affleck acknowledges that, initially, “I didn’t want any television show about my family to include a guy who owned slaves. I was embarrassed.”

He says he lobbied Henry Louis Gates, the Harvard scholar who hosts and produces the show, “the same way I lobby directors about what takes of mine I think they should use.”

“It’s important to remember that this isn’t a news program,” Affleck said of *Finding Your Roots*, which traces the ancestry of well-known guests. Affleck’s request came to light last week in hacked Sony emails published online by whistleblower site WikiLeaks.

Gates and PBS said then they didn’t censor the slave-owner details. Instead, more interesting ancestors of the actor emerged and Gates chose to highlight them instead.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOSSIP NOTES

Garfield and Stone’s web has permanently unwoven

After dating for more than three years — so basically a decade in Hollywood — Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone went on a “break” two weeks ago. But unfortunately this is no Ross and Rachel situation. According to *Us* magazine, a source close to the couple says they are done for good. Apparently, Andrew got a little too into character preparing for his role in *Silence*. “He’s been in a dark place for months getting into the role. He wasn’t being the best partner,” a source tells the magazine. Can someone put this guy in a lighthearted rom-com next? Sheesh!

Jenner fuels speculation over upcoming interview

New photos appear to show former Olympic athlete Bruce Jenner in a striped dress outside his Malibu home. The *New York Daily News* published the photos a couple of days prior to Jenner’s scheduled interview with Diane Sawyer. The interview is believed to be about Jenner’s coming out as transgender. The *Daily News* reports that Jenner has been seen also wearing a sports bra: “A photo of the former Olympic gold medalist wear-



ing what appeared to be a sports bra while riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle emerged Monday, leading many to assume the star had already undergone breast augmentation surgery.” ABC will air Jenner’s interview on Friday.

Amy Schumer gets no help from Kimye

In other Kardashian-Jenner news, Kim Kardashian and Kanye West totally got punked by Amy Schumer at the Time 100 Gala this week. She fake-tripped in front of the couple on the red carpet and sprawled herself on the ground, face first. Most people might lend a hand and help a girl up, but the couple just kind of stepped over her and carried on. Well, what else would you expect from Kanye, right?

EMILY LAURENCE/METRO NEW YORK



Amy Schumer falls in front of Kanye West and Kim Kardashian at the Time 100 Gala. GETTY IMAGES

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Karl Lohnes



Punchy, graphic and bright floral patterns offer a pretty, modern edge this spring; let them bloom with these stylish accessories.



2



3



1

1 Cece Organic Duvet

Organic cotton duvet cover shows off a botanical scene of giant dahlias. \$130, PotteryBarn.com

2 Faux Floral Arrangement

Everlasting floral arrangements add a burst of summer colour. \$35, Homesense.ca

3 Asan Kantha Chair

Sit pretty on this occasional chair featuring a mix of industrial and floral. \$750, CB2.com

4 Flower-Shaped Pancake Ring

Making pancakes and eggs just got a lot more fun. \$5, CrateAndBarrel.com

5 Allyson Johnson Bold Floral and Dots Shower Curtain

Add a summer garden to your bathroom. \$90, UrbanOutfitters.com

6 Daydream Floral Pillow With Feather Insert

Escape to a blooming garden by adding pastel and jewel tone florals. \$49, Chapters.Indigo.ca



4



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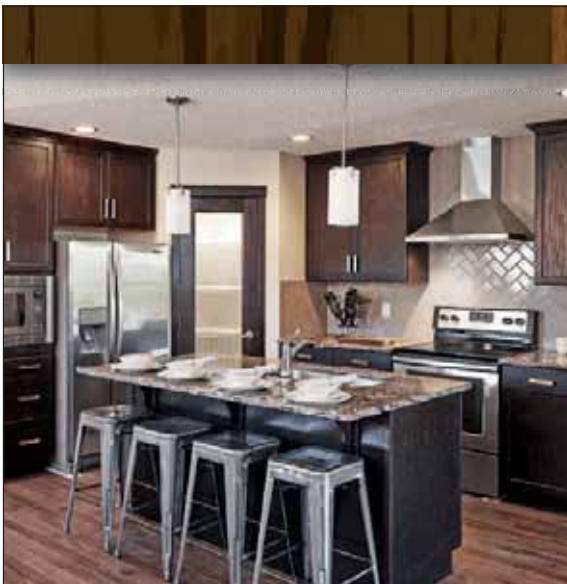
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DIY

Drapes project requires few inexpensive materials

Marianne Hayes
Metro in New York City

One creative, simple way to spruce up your home for spring is to change out heavy curtains for light, airy drapes. The good news is that letting the light in doesn't mean you have to spend a fortune on new decor.

Instead, check out these budget-friendly DIY projects that'll leave your windows looking like they came out of an Anthropologie catalogue.

Burlap isn't necessarily a fabric that traditionally screams spring, but (if done right) it can actually give your living room a crisp, fresh feel. Another kicker? It's a no-sew project that's relatively inexpensive to pull off.

Bang from burlap

"Our family room had so many windows that I needed to find an inexpensive way to add drapery without breaking the bank!" says Jessica Bruno of Four Generations One Roof. "I purchased burlap for under \$2 a yard and made my own no-sew curtains."

Bruno completed the look with just three and a half yards of burlap, which covered 10 large windows. The finished product is airy and light — perfect for spring. It's also easy

to swap out when the seasons change.

For full instructions, go to <http://www.fourgenerationsoneroof.com>.

A Sharpie is all you need to pull off this next look, which uses your own handwriting and some creative messaging. Just be sure to use a permanent marker; not a paint pen. Putting a piece of cardboard under the curtains while writing is also a good idea.

"The hardest part is deciding what to write," says Karen Cooper of Dogs Don't Eat Pizza. For her kitchen curtains, Cooper decided to write a variety of cooking-related words (like "bake," "mix" and "stir") in varying cursives and prints.

And if the curtains get dirty over time, washing them won't smudge the writing. Just throw

them in the gentle cycle in cold water.

Stencil treatment

Whether your home is ultra-modern or boho chic, printed curtains can help accentuate the tone and feel.

Instead of dropping money at Crate and Barrel, opt for plain cotton drapes from any home store — then kick them up a notch by painting on a cool pattern, using fabric paint and a stencil roller.

Before you let the intimidation set in, keep in mind that you'll be using a stencil.

Megan Bray over at Balancing Home says the trick to stencilling is to avoid using too much paint. She also advises putting some muscle into your rolling to produce the best final image.



Plain white curtains have been painted with stencils.

BALANCING HOME



Handwritten curtains can contain your own messages.

DOGS DON'T EAT PIZZA

Sens get long-awaited reward

NHL PLAYOFFS

Latest 1-goal game goes Ottawa's way in nick of time

Mike Hoffman scored in the third period and Craig Anderson made 28 saves for the shutout as the Ottawa Senators downed the Montreal Canadiens 1-0 on Wednesday night to stay alive in their first-round NHL playoff series.

Montreal leads the best-of-seven series 3-1 and can wrap it up on home ice Friday night.

Coach Dave Cameron had moved Hoffman, a rookie, from the fourth line up to the second unit with Mika Zibanejad and Bobby Ryan during the first period.

It paid off in the third as Cody Ceci kept a Tom Gilbert clearing attempt in at the point and fed Hoffman in the left circle for quick shot that beat Carey Price 9:05 into the third period.

It was the fourth straight game the Sen-

GAME 4 On Wednesday



ators scored first, but this time, the Canadiens didn't answer back. An anemic power play that has gone 1-for-16 in the series hasn't helped their cause.

Anderson, who made 47 saves in his series debut in Game 3, was strong again for the Senators as they outshot Montreal 32-28. He sprawled to force Brandon Prust to slam the puck against the side of the net during a short-handed breakaway late in the second.

There was choppy play for two scoreless periods. The Senators did not spend as much energy early on seeking big hits as in the previous three games, while Montreal simply did not look sharp.

Only four teams have come back to win when trailing 0-3 in a series: Toronto in 1942, the New York Islanders in 1975, Philadelphia in 2010 and Los Angeles in 2014. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for more playoff coverage, including the Jets' attempt to stay alive in their series against the Ducks.



Habs defenceman Andrei Markov misses a shot at Craig Anderson's open net during Game 4 of the first-round series at Canadian Tire Centre Wednesday night. Anderson's 28-save shutout helped the Sens staved off elimination. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eat, sleep, play ... and watch more hockey

On a night when he wasn't playing in a game, Brandon Bollig watched two NHL playoff games simultaneously — one on television and another on his tablet.

The burly Calgary Flames forward is like other hockey fans who think the first round of NHL playoffs is the most wonderful time of the year. If he's not playing, there are multiple games to watch every night.

"I don't think it's hockey overload," Bollig said. "You sit back and watch and enjoy it and know it's not you get-

ting banged around out there."

Bollig will be the one getting banged around out there Thursday when the Flames are in Vancouver for Game 5 of their first-round series. The Flames lead the best-of-seven round three games to one.

An unscientific survey of some players in the playoffs indicated varying degrees of interest in other series. It was everything from Bollig's all-in

approach to watching parts of some games to just checking scores.

"I'll peek in and see how the game is going or just kind of check in on my phone," said Bollig's teammate Joe Colborne. "Watching those games, it's fun hockey but before you know it, it's 11:30 and you should be in bed."

There were players in the Calgary-Vancouver series

watching on a night off earlier this week when the Winnipeg Jets hosted their first playoff game in 19 years.

Canucks goaltender Eddie Lack tuned in for a period to see the atmosphere at the MTS Centre, but then shut the game off in his Calgary hotel room.

"Obviously I'm kind of a big hockey nerd, so I kind of try to follow what's going on," Lack said.

"Sometimes I think it gets to be a little bit too much. My sleep is very important at this time of the year."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Some players in the Calgary-Vancouver series stayed up to watch playoff hockey return to Winnipeg for the first time in 19 years. TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

I'm best, not Ali: Mayweather

BOXING

Mayweather touts himself as sweet science's best ever

Floyd Mayweather Jr. refused Wednesday to back off earlier comments declaring himself a better fighter than Muhammad Ali.

Mayweather said he respects Ali's great career and the things he did outside the ring. But he said he believes he has done as much in boxing as the legendary former heavyweight champion ever did, without the losses that Ali suffered in his career.

"He called himself The Greatest and I call myself TBE (The Best Ever)," Mayweather said. "I'm pretty sure I'll get criticized for what I said, but I could care less. I could care less about the backlash."

Mayweather had earlier said that he was better than both Ali and Sugar Ray Robin-

son, pointing to his 47-0 record as proof.

"I just look at Ali's career when he fought Leon Spinks and lost to a fighter with seven fights," Mayweather said. "There were some other fights he lost and he's still known as The Greatest because that's what he put out there. It is what it is."

A little more than a week before his May 2 megafight with Manny Pacquiao, Mayweather seemed relaxed. He said he was treating the richest fight ever as just another fight.

"I know it's the biggest fight in boxing history but I can't approach it like that," Mayweather said. "I'm never going to put any unnecessary pressure on myself. I

“He’s making it basically a god against devil kind of thing, but he doesn’t have to get in there and fight.”

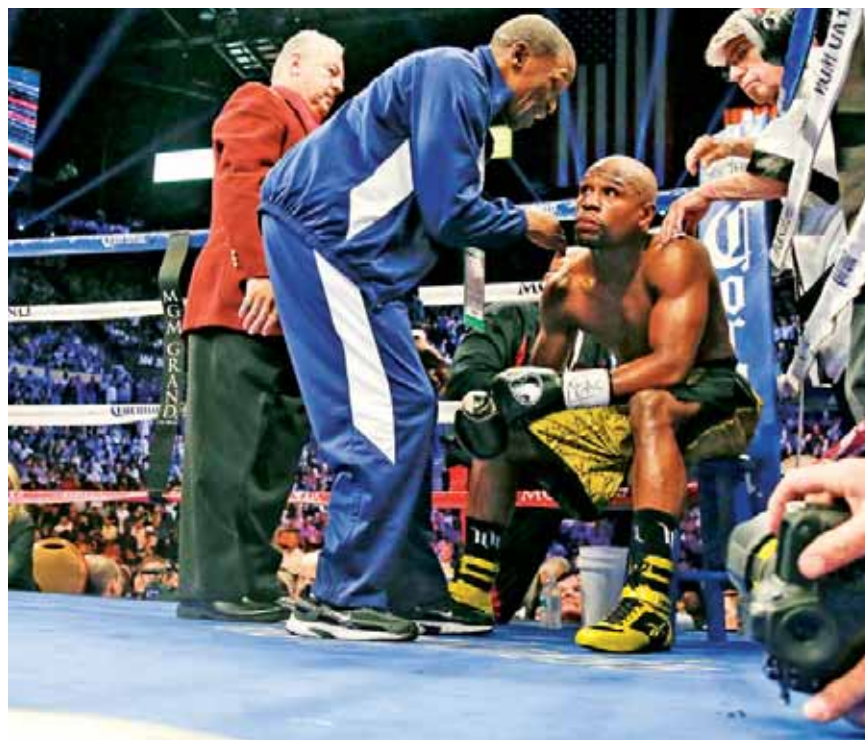
Floyd Mayweather says promoter Freddie Roach has tried to promote him as the bad guy in his superfight against Manny Pacquiao.

like to approach the fight like he's a fighter who's extremely talented. But my thing is to just be Floyd Mayweather."

That has worked for Mayweather his entire career, though most historians would disagree with his view of boxing history. That includes the current heavyweight champion, Wladimir Klitschko.

"I think probably, I heard this comment from Mayweather that he's better than Ali or greater than Ali," Klitschko said. "I think people call the king the king, not the king (who says) 'I'm the king.'"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Floyd Mayweather Jr. listens to his father and trainer Floyd Mayweather Sr. during his May 2013 fight against Robert Guerrero in Las Vegas. RICK BOWMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



57-5-2

The Philippines' Manny Pacquiao comes into the fight with 57 wins, five losses and two draws.

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RECIPE Bok Choy Salad with Mandarin Oranges and Ginger Dressing



EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com

@rosereisman



Ready in

Prep time: 15 minutes
Serves: 6

Ingredients

- 6 oz extra firm tofu cut into cubes
- 12 oz baby bok choy, trimmed and sliced
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup fresh or canned and drained mandarin segments
- 1/4 cup toasted sliced almonds
- 3 Tbsp chopped cilantro or parsley dressing
- 1/3 cup minced red onion
- 2 1/2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 1/2 Tbsp rice wine vinegar
- 2 1/2 Tbsp water
- 1 1/2 Tbsp ketchup
- 1 Tbsp minced ginger
- 1 Tbsp light soy sauce

- 1 1/2 tsp sesame oil
- 1 1/2 tsp granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp minced garlic

Directions

1. In grill or sauté pan, sear tofu cubes just until browned on both sides, about 5 minutes. Set aside.
2. Place bok choy, green onions, cranberries and mandarins on serving platter. Garnish with almonds and cilantro.
3. Dressing: In small bowl or food processor, puree all ingredients until smooth. Pour over top salad and mix well. Add tofu.

Nutrition per serving

- Calories 186 • Protein 8.6 g
- Carbohydrates 14.0 g
- Fibre 2.2 g • Total fat 11.6 g
- Saturated fat 0.8 g
- Cholesterol 0 g
- Sodium 169 mg

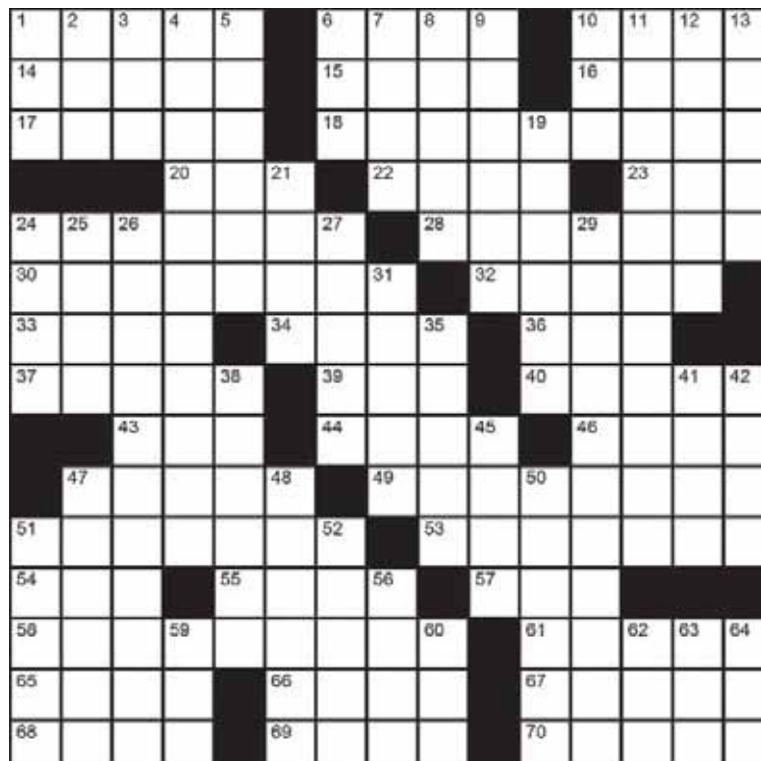
PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Uses the text-thickening function
6. Thunder god
10. First word of Virgil's epic Latin poem Aeneid
14. Streamlet
15. Sulk
16. Casual affirmative
17. Dylan __, "Orphan Black" star
18. Saskatchewan town southwest of Saskatoon
20. One-eighty turn, slangily
22. Eminem's Shady
23. Canuck, curtly
24. Smokestack
28. Growled
30. Kiesza hit
32. "Wavin' Flag" singer
33. "Konvicted" rapper
34. Chocolate/toffee Hershey bar
36. Don't hire a pro, e.g.
37. U.S. airline
39. U.S. state, e.g.
40. "Happy Days" name
43. Cleveland NBA-er
44. Herman Melville: Captain in Billy Budd, Sailor
46. "Weeell?"
47. "Mack the Knife" singer Bobby
49. "Steal My ___" by Canadian group Len
51. Many are exhausted after one: 2 wds.



53. Mr. Cage
54. Prefix meaning 'Outer'
55. Caustics
57. Stock index, with Jones
58. Bugs living under a rock, as an example of one
61. ___ and Sara (Music duo from Calgary)

65. Marching instrument
66. Office memo abbr.
67. Prefix meaning 'Rainbow'
68. Gentle
69. British Columbia's ___ National Park
70. Plus

DOWN

1. Consumer protection agcy.
2. Lisa __, Canadian etiquette expert
3. "___ Grant"
4. April 23rd to May 3rd, 2015: Canadian International ___ Festival, in Toronto
5. British Colum-

6. Online celeb gossip source
7. Cultivates
8. Some stones
9. Fix a chain, say
10. Ms. Rand
11. Some of Prince Edward Island's 'land'scape is distinguished by

- it: 3 wds.
12. Fairytale figure
13. Lend __ (Help out)
19. Christopher Plummer's actress daughter
21. Archery bow trees
24. Country of Africa
25. Go back-packing
26. Viewer voting leads to a new one each week on Ryan Seacrest's show: 2 wds.
27. Comedy's Mr. Smirnoff
29. Song by Canadian singer Pagliaro, fitting for April's weather
31. Yesteryears
35. Already-shown show
38. In a keen manner
41. Charlie Chaplin's last wife
42. Negative replies
45. Barenaked Ladies song
47. Rucellai Madonna painter
48. Oppose/reject
50. Nova __
51. Bellyaches
52. Bryan Adams' "The Best Was ___ Come"
56. Comic actor Mr. Green
59. Kit
60. Telephone trio
62. Soldiers
63. 'Block' suffix
64. Negative word

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries March 21 - April 20

Everyone gets things wrong once in a while and you are no exception. If you make an error of judgment today – and you will – don't try to deny it. Accept your mistake then set about putting it right.

♉ Taurus April 21 - May 21

With the Sun in your sign your confidence is high, but you still have a vague feeling that everything could fall apart at any moment. Don't worry, it won't, but your intuition could be telling you something. What could it be?

♊ Gemini May 22 - June 21

This is a time for reflection, a time for looking back over the previous 12 months or so and learning what you can from both your successes and your failures.

♋ Cancer June 22 - July 23

Someone who is usually very open with you will be secretive for no good reason today, but don't take it to heart because it is unlikely to have anything to do with you personally.

♌ Leo July 24 - Aug. 23

Anyone who thinks they can take advantage of your trusting nature will soon learn that you are not so easily deceived. Trusting you may be, but stupid you are not – as they will find out to their detriment today.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If your intuition tells you to follow a certain course of action then do so even if everyone else thinks you are mad. Listen to that little voice inside your head – and close your ears to everything else.

♎ Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

If you ask someone for a favor today chances are they will be more than willing to help you out. But don't expect to get what you want for free.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Personal problems may seem much bigger than they actually are at the moment, so wait until the weekend before making important decisions.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You have so much to do but time is limited, so don't waste even a second on things that are not connected to your long-term ambitions.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Seize the initiative today and let everyone around you know that you intend to take what it is you

desire rather than wait for others to give it to you. The Sun in Taurus makes all things possible.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Don't be surprised if you feel a bit moody today, even though most things in your life appear to be going well at the moment. You will be back to your normal self come the weekend.

♓ Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20

You don't need to pound rivals into submission, not when your way with words is such that you can sweet talk them into doing whatever it is you desire. Whether your words are sincere is another matter entirely, of course.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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